



Appleby Archaeology Newsletter



Winter 2005

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The Portable Antiquities Scheme

At the December meeting the group had the opportunity of hearing about the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) and meet Dot Bruns the Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) for Lancashire and Cumbria.

PAS is a voluntary scheme for the recording of archaeological artefacts found by members of the public thereby promoting the recording of chance finds and increasing public awareness of the importance of such objects for understanding our past. The scheme was established in 1997 and is managed by a consortium of national bodies led by the Museums, Archives and Libraries Council. It now covers England and Wales, and has 36 Finds Liaison Officers.

The main role of the FLO is to record archaeological objects found by the public. They also have a role in publicising the Scheme, giving advice on recording, conservation and the Treasure Act. Records of the finds are published on the Scheme's web site. FLOs have identified over 300,000 artefacts since 1997. Many of these finds are the result of metal detecting and a good working relationship with local groups is of great value. The FLO can be called

out to aid in the excavation of a find on site.

Dot explained that 75% of the finds are likely to belong to the finder but there are those which are covered by the Treasures Act of 1996. She outlined the categories of objects that do not qualify as treasure eg objects whose owners can be traced, and those that do qualify eg any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find.

Dot handed out several papers including the Annual Report 2004/5 of the PAS. This has an illustrated section of a selection of finds recorded by FLOs in the last year. (There are some extra copies available to members, which I shall bring to the AGM for distribution)

She concluded the evening by looking at a number of artefacts brought in by members.

Phyllis Rouston

Contacts:

Telephone 01772 532175, the Lancashire County Museum, or Tuille House Museum.

Email:
Dot.Bruns@mus.lancsec.gov.uk

The PAS website is:
www.finds.org.uk

The Cumbria Historic Environment Record (Formerly the SMR)

The county council maintains a database of historic sites and buildings that is called the Historic Environment Record (used to be Sites and Monuments Record). This database is a public resource and can be access by anyone either by writing with a query to the county archaeologist at the Council offices in Kendal or by visiting the office where there is a dedicated terminal for visitors to search the database themselves – by far the better method. Linked to the database is a collection of aerial photographs. Anyone can also submit a site for addition to the database, the county archaeologist will then assess it and add it to the record if the site is worthy. Recently the Group has submitted the two potash pits and the stone-fast dyke at Kirkland and I have submitted another possible potash pit at Melmerby. In the pipeline for submission are another dyke running alongside Murton Beck and one recorded by Margery Campion at Hilton.

I have paper copies of the SMRs (as they are still known on the database) for several areas (km squares) along the East

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Medieval Deer Parks in North Westmorland

At the October meeting Harry Hawkins (chairman) stepped in at short notice to give a talk, full of local interest, on Medieval Deer Parks in North Westmorland. (The planned talk on Dilston Castle was cancelled due to unexpected circumstances but it will be rescheduled.)

Harry illustrated his talk with slides but explained that deer parks were not photogenic as evidence on the ground was sometimes hard to find and not always conclusive.

Two features of the medieval landscape were outlined. Large areas of unenclosed land, which would include woodland and open ground, such as Stainmore and Mallerstang, were described as forests. These areas were subject to forest law, often harsh, which was designed to preserve game and reserve the land for hunting. Managing the forests would have provided some employment for foresters, huntsmen and those who administered forest law. Parks were enclosed areas for any stock but came to be associated with deer. It is thought that roe and fallow deer were within the parks and that the red were on the unenclosed land of forest.

Deer parks were a feature of the landscape from Anglo Saxon times but the peak period for them was during the 13th and 14th centuries. Deer were the king's beasts and venison was a noble meat. The medieval court moved around the kingdom and the king could send for venison from any of his forests and would have hunted in some. The forests were granted to barons and if they wished to enclose an area they had to have the king's permission and be granted a li-

cence. This was a source of revenue for the crown. The granting of a licence did not always result in an enclosure. Robert de Clifford was granted a licence for Appleby in 1316 but the location of the park is unknown although the name Parkin Hill, south of the town, may be a clue. After 1400 the parks fell out of use and became used as arable land or pasture. Some remained enclosed until the 17th century and others became associated with stately homes as at Raby Castle and Dalmain where they can be enjoyed today.

The boundaries of the park needed to be substantial and were formed by earth banks around the perimeter which carried wooden fences or pales. Later these may have been replaced by walls. Good examples can be seen on the boundaries of Ravenstonedale deer park where the dry stone walls are 3-4 metres high in stretches. The parks varied in size from 60 to 600 medieval acres. The park at Crosby Ravensworth (licence 1356) may have incorporated prehistoric boundaries when the medieval park was set out, and the 1556 park at Ravenstonedale probably utilised the boundaries of a medieval park. To ensure the deer stayed within the park a ditch would have been dug on the inside. Deer leaps were constructed on the boundaries to enable deer to go into the park but then be unable to get out.

Harry continued by describing the sources of information on the location of deer parks. The most significant are the state records of the granting of licences. A list of those granted in north Westmorland illustrated this. Estates records, such as those of the Duchy of Lancaster, provide further infor-

mation, for example on those involved in the management of forests, and from Shap, on the disputes with tenants when land was enclosed and they lost rights to common land. Records also inform us that deer were moved around the country and one of 1245 suggests that the Clifford's of Windfall were taking deer from Inglewood Forrest.

Maps are another source. Examples cited included a map of the 16th century giving the location of some of the deer parks in Westmorland and Cumberland and a map of 1823 where an area in Whinfell is marked as a deer park. An estate map from Whinfell of 1804 shows how the park was divided up for agricultural use. On ordnance survey maps the word park may indicate the locality of a deer park such as Barton Park at Ullswater. The word "salter" may be associated with a deer leap and there is a Salter Hill in Whinfell. Some parish boundaries appear to run along the old deer park boundaries as can be seen on the boundary between Brougham and Cliburn.

The third source of information is what can be seen on the ground and using his slides Harry was able to illustrate features that might indicate boundaries, ditches and deer leaps that can be observed not too far away from Appleby.

Phyllis Rouston



The Gunpowder Industry in Lakeland

Those who braved the wet weather to attend the November meeting were informed and entertained as Alice Palmer spoke about the *Gunpowder Industry in Lakeland*. She explained that her research was primarily from documents and that there was limited archaeological evidence although English Heritage were currently investigating the physical remains of the industry in Cumbria.

She outlined the history of gunpowder before speaking of the industry in Lakeland and of her research into the mill at Low Wood.

Gun powder is made from charcoal, saltpetre and sulphur. The Chinese knew of the mixture's incendiary properties from the 9th century and this knowledge was acquired by the Arabs in the 11th century and brought to Europe two centuries later. The English army first used gunpowder at the Battle of Crecy in 1346. Demand increased with the threat of war from Spain in the 16th century and later from the French. Factories tended to be in the south around Bristol, London and in Suffolk.

In the late 18th century Cumbria became a centre for production of explosives for use in its many mines and stone quarries. Powder was also produced for military and sporting practices. At one stage there were seven powder manufacturers in the south east of the county, where there were fast flowing rivers to provide water power and a plentiful supply of coppiced woodland for charcoal. The sea was the commercial route for the import of saltpetre from India and sulphur

from Sicily and for the export of gunpowder. The Leven and Kent estuaries were accessible to shipping and near to Liverpool. The first mill was opened by John Wakefield at Sedgwick in 1764 and the last to open was the Black Beck mill in 1860. Production continued until the 1930s, but had declined sharply with the decline in mining and the development of new explosives in the early 20th century.

Miss Palmer then spoke of her research covering the first ten years of manufacturing at Low Wood, which opened in 1789. Her source material had included business letters, accounts and other documents. The founders were, Christopher Wilson, a Quaker banker from Kendal and the driving force, James King, from Liverpool with a background in accountancy, Dye Barker, a manufacturing and technical expert and Capt James Fayer, a privateer well known on the Gold Coast of Africa.

The mill manufactured sporting powder for landowners and game keepers, blasting powder for the mines and quarries and military powder, a substantial amount of which was sent to Africa as part of the triangular slave trade. This involved the export of guns and powder to West Africa for use in the tribal wars, the capture and transfer of slaves to the West Indies and finally the import from the West Indies of sugar and other luxury goods. Britain abolished the slave trade in 1807. It appears that those at Low Wood were aware that the trade would be prohibited but saw their chance to make money and took it. They started with a capital of £1200 and in the first 10 years had made a profit of over one hundred per cent.

The gunpowder industry survived abolition and with increasing indus-

trialisation demand grew. Low Wood prospered in the 19th century supplying a number of industries including quarrying, lead mining at Dufton, coalmining in Lancashire and iron working in Wales. In 1882 it was taken over by Wakefield.

Health and safety was an issue in the 19th century and the records tell us that there were no deaths at Low Wood in the first ten years but there are records of how burns were treated. The risk of accidental explosions was ever present and precautions were taken. The employees wore leather clothing and to minimise the risk of sparks there were no nails in boots and the horses were shod with copper. One reason that so little remains to be seen today is that, when the mills finally closed and the buildings were demolished, they were fired to remove all traces of gunpowder.

Throughout the entertaining talk Miss Palmer gave details that made the audience feel not only that they had learned about gunpowder manufacture but that they knew the people involved.

Phyllis Rouston



**Merry Christmas
and
Best Wishes for 2006**

from the Editor

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Fellside, Lowther Park, potash kilns for the whole county and medieval deer parks for the whole county. Do you have anything you consider is worth recording?

Further information from Jo Macintosh at Kendal, telephone 01539 773432.

Harry Hawkins

Living Among the Monuments

You may be aware from reading the Herald, that Penrith Museum is running a project in 2006 to explore Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments in the Eden Valley. This will include guided walks, workshops, talks and an exhibition at the museum.

In addition the project will be undertaking fieldwalking of ploughed fields in the vicinity of Long Meg in order to try to identify where prehistoric people may have been living in the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. The fieldwork is expected to start in March or April (depending on the availability of ploughed fields). The project is looking for volunteers from the local area to participate in the fieldwalking. If you think you would like to take part please give me your name and telephone number at the AGM or email me (details below), and I will keep you informed. For all other activities contact Penrith Museum direct. Website: www.eden.gov.uk

Martin Railton

Events in 2006

AGM and Members Evening

Tuesday 10th January
7.00 Appleby Market Hall
Our eighth annual general meeting will be followed at 7.30pm by two talks by group members:

Tricia Crompton
Digging in Slovakia

Martin Railton
Run out of Time Team:
Working as a field archaeologist

The minutes of the last AGM and the agenda for this meeting are included with the newsletter. Please note that subscriptions for 2006 are now due. Please use the enclosed form to renew your subscription. Either post the form to the membership secretary or bring it with payment on the evening.

Landscape Survey

Several years ago the group ran a landscape survey whereby members could record on a simple form any features they came across in the landscape which they thought were of archaeological interest. Out of that exercise grew the Kirkland Project and efforts became concentrated on that. However members continue to walk about in the countryside noticing features such as humps and bumps, hollow ways, or strip fields and may wish to record them for future investigation.

These forms and explanatory notes on how to fill them in, will be available at the AGM.

Dilston Castle and Priory

Tues 14th February 2006
7.30 Appleby Market Hall

This talk (which was postponed from last year) will be given by Tricia Crompton and Gareth Davies (North Pennines Archaeology) who will be talking to the group about recent excavation and restoration at Dilston Castle.

**The Archaeology
of the
Second World War**
Tues 14th March 2006
7.30 Appleby Market Hall

WW2 archaeology in Cumbria will be the subject of this talk given by Russel Barnes.

Recent investigations at Long Meg

Tuesday 11th April 2006
7.30 Appleby Market Hall

Tom Clare (John Moores University) will be talking to the group about Long Meg and Her Daughters, Cumbria's largest stone circle. This site is also the focus of Penrith Museum's Living Among the Monuments project.



SENDER:

Appleby Archaeology Group, The White House, Brampton, Appleby, CA16 6JS
Newsletter Editor: Martin Railton Email: martin@fellside-eden.freemove.co.uk